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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Gera

619101

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 1 April 1954

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REFERENCES

PAGES 2

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. In the morning on 28 February 1954, 8 x 100-mm AT guns, 2 x 75-mm AT guns, 11 prime movers and 24 motor vehicles were loaded at the Gera railroad station on a train, which included 12 boxcars. At about noon, the train left toward Weimar. In the afternoon, 12 x 100-mm AT guns, 4 x 75-mm AT guns, 14 prime movers and 27 motor vehicles were loaded on a train, which included 14 boxcars and subsequently left toward Weimar.

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2. On 6 March, the Heuss Kaserne (8141) in Gera was occupied by about 3,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and motor transport insignia and, a few, signal insignia. A total of about 600 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and motor transport insignia and carrying full field pack left the installation toward Dorna on 6 March. [redacted] the troops set out for a 30-kilometer march with full field equipment.

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3. On 6 March, the Panzer Kaserne (8142) in Tinz was occupied by about 900 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. In the early morning, a unit of about 850 troops had fallen in for a roll call in the barracks yard. Subsequently, 22 officers and 2 companies of about 400 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets left the installation for Roschuetz. About 120 troops received training with small arms in the training area of the installation.

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4. In early March, the Reuss Kaserne was occupied to capacity by about 1,800 troops wearing artillery insignia. Heavy weapons observed in the barracks yard included 4 x 100-mm AT guns. On 2 and 5 March, troops observed in the barracks area received drill including service of the piece drill.

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5. In early March, the Panzer Kaserne in Tinz was occupied to capacity by an estimated 230 troops wearing artillery, tank and motor transport insignia. [redacted] the installation quartered an armored school and/or an armored engineer school which was definitely connected with the barracks installation in Zeitz, as was indicated by heavy vehicular traffic between the two installations. The instructors at the school were permanently stationed there. Students were rotated to and from the school about every 6 weeks. On 2 March, 2 SU-100 guns were observed. Training included construction of emergency bridges in the area behind the installation. The bridges were passed by tanks.²

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6. On 3 March, about 50 T-34/85 tanks, several trucks and 1 radio truck were standing on the road to Gengloff, 15 kilometers west of Gera, near the Hermsdorf autobahn crossing. The column was no longer observed there on 4 March. [redacted] the column had proceeded toward Grosserebersdorf.

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1. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] the 308th Arty Brig [redacted] is confirmed in Germany until 11 February 1954

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2. [redacted] Comment. The unidentified tank training unit of the Eighth Gds Army is confirmed in the Panzer Kaserne in Tinz [redacted]. There are several indications that this unit engaged especially in armored engineer training. No information on a connection of this unit with the Zeitz post, i.e. the 20th Gds Mech Div, has so far been received. It is possible that armored and engineer personnel of the individual divisions of the Eighth Gds Army were rotated to the school and that a course of the 20th Gds Mech Div started in early March.

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